REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed November 30, 2004, the Examiner rejected pending claims 1-20. Claim 1 has been amended. Thus, in view of the foregoing claims 1-20 remain pending for reconsideration which is requested. No new matter has been added. The Examiner's rejections are traversed below.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

In the Office Action, claims 1-12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takagi (U.S. Patent No. 5,881,231, hereinafter Takagi) in view of, "IBM Technical Disclosure Bulletin" (hereinafter IBM). *See* Office Action, page 4, item 6.

The Examiner has asked that Applicants clarify the claim term "connection state." The term "connection state" is a state that indicates whether the user terminal exists on a session between the user terminal and the server.

In contrast to the present invention, Takagi teaches information pertaining to, "a current location of the terminal," including "relatively physical information" such as latitude, longitude, altitude, a number assigned to a connection point of the terminal and network and "relatively logical information" such as the name of a building. *See* Takagi, column 10, 43-51. Takagi does not teach or suggest, "**a connection state transmitting part transmitted from a server in response to a session request sent to the server to transmit a connection state *indicating whether the user terminal exists on a session between the user terminal and the server,***" as in the present invention. Takagi is simply concerned with providing the physical and logical location information, not with determination of active communication of the client and server (i.e., not with indicating whether a session exists), as in the present invention.

IBM it is concerned with propagating password changes to a plurality of domains of which a user is a part. A password is transmitted *from a user client* to a server to authenticate a user. Therefore, IBM does not teach, "a connection state transmitting part ***transmitted from a server in response to a session request sent to the server. . .***," as password information in IBM is transmitted *from a client computer* to a server computer. Moreover, IBM does not disclose a providing part which provides a connection state transmitting part that transmits "*a connection state*." According to IBM, as the password is transmitted to a server *before* a session is established, the password cannot indicate, "*whether a session exists* between the user terminal and a server."

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1 is patentable over the references, as neither Takagi nor IBM, taken alone or in combination,

teaches or suggest "**a connection state transmitting part transmitted from a server in response to a session request sent to the server to transmit a connection state *indicating whether the user terminal exists on a session between the user terminal and the server,***" as in the present invention.

As dependent claims 2-6 and 11 depend from claim 1, the dependent claims are patentable over the references for at least the reason offered above with respect to independent claim 1. As independent claim 7 recites, "providing capability to perform operation (a) from the server to the user terminal" ("a" refers to transmitting the connection state from the server), it is patentable over the references for the same reason offered above with respect to claim 1. As dependent claims 8-10 and 12 depend from independent claim 7, these claims are patentable over the references for at least the reason offered for claim 7. For example, claim 8 is patentable over the references, as the references do not teach or suggest a server that releases a session.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

On page 7 (item 13) of the Office Action, claims 13-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Shi *et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,875,296, hereinafter Shi). According to our understanding of Shi, it is directed to a method of authenticating a Web client to a Web server. After the client is authenticated by transmitting a user id and password to the user, the server stores a "credential" in its database. The server then returns to the client a persistent client state object having a unique identifier. *See* Shi, Abstract.

Claims 13-20 are not anticipated by Shi, as Shi does not teach the monitoring applet, as recited by these claims. In the present invention as defined by claim 13, the server transmits two items to the client terminal, a session ID *and a monitoring applet*. In contrast, Shi's Web server only transmits a persistent client state object (a cookie) to a client. The persistent client state object includes a unique identifier that allows the client to connect to the Web server. The Web server uses the unique identifier as a pointer to the "credential" in the server's database. Thus, in Shi, there is no monitoring applet, as in the present invention. The persistent client state object merely acts as an automatic pass to allow the client to access the Web server and is, therefore, not a monitoring applet.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claims 13 and 17 are patentable over the references, as none of the references, taken alone or in combination, teach or suggest the above-identified feature of the claims. As dependent claims 14-16 and 18-20 depend from independent claims 13 and 17, respectively, the dependent claims are patentable

over the references as well.

It is submitted that the claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103. It is also submitted that all claims continue to be allowable, as they are not taught, disclosed or suggested by the prior art. The claims are therefore in a condition suitable for allowance. An early Notice of Allowance is requested.

If any further fees, other than and except for the issue fee, are necessary with respect to this paper, the U.S.P.T.O. is requested to obtain the same from deposit account number 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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